

What is claimed is:

1. A picture image outputting apparatus for outputting a picture image for display, said apparatus comprising:

5 storage means for storing a playing time for enabling an output operation of a picture image and a locking time for disabling the output operation of a picture image;

playing time timing means for timing the playing  
10 time;

locking time timing means for timing the locking time;

mode selecting means for selecting a playing time limiting mode for controlling the picture image  
15 outputting apparatus on a basis of the playing time and the locking time; and

control means for starting timing of said playing time timing means after the playing time limiting mode has been selected and for starting timing of said locking  
20 time timing means when passage of the playing time is detected to disable the output operation of the picture image until the locking time has passed.

2. The picture image outputting apparatus according  
25 to claim 1, further comprising:

playing time setting means for user's setting of the playing time.

3. The picture image outputting apparatus according  
30 to claim 2, wherein said playing time setting means is means for selecting a playing time from a plurality of

playing times.

4. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said playing time setting means  
5 enters a playing time setting mode by a user's continuous operation of a specific key for a fixed time, and settles the set playing time by a user's second continuous operation of the specific key for the fixed time.

10 5. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control means releases the playing time limiting mode when the specific key is continuously operated for the fixed time after the playing time limiting mode has been selected.

15 6. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said mode selecting means detects completion of the setting of the playing time with said playing time setting means to select the playing time  
20 limiting mode.

7. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means starts the timing of said playing time timing means immediately after the  
25 playing time limiting mode has been selected.

8. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means starts the timing of said playing time timing means after the playing time  
30 limiting mode has been selected and an operation of a play switch has been detected.

9. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control means resumes the timing of said playing time timing means when said control means  
5 detects the operation of the play switch in a case where passage of the locking time is detected.

10. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 1, said apparatus further comprising:  
10 calculation means for calculating remaining playing time of information being played in progress when the passage of the playing time is detected; and  
comparison means for comparing the calculated remaining playing time with a reference time, wherein:  
15 said control means immediately starts the timing of said locking time timing means and disables the output operation of the picture image until the locking time has passed when the remaining playing time is larger than the reference time, and starts the timing of said locking  
20 time timing means and disables the output operation of the picture image until the locking time has passed after the remaining playing time has passed when the remaining playing time is smaller than the reference time.

25 11. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 1, said apparatus further comprising indication means for indicating a locking state during the timing of said locking time timing means.

30 12. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said indication means is

means for blinking a power indication lamp.

13. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said picture image  
5 outputting apparatus is a picture image reproducer for reproducing picture image information stored in a prescribed storage medium to output the reproduced picture image information.

10 14. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said picture image reproducer is a video deck for reproducing a videocassette tape to output a reproduced picture image signal.

15 15. The picture image outputting apparatus according to claim 14, said apparatus further comprising:  
calculation means for calculating remaining playing time of information being played in progress on a basis  
20 of a rotational speed of a tape reel of the video cassette tape when the passage of the playing time is detected; and

comparison means for comparing the calculated remaining playing time with a reference time, wherein:  
25 said control means immediately starts the timing of said locking time timing means and disables the output operation of the picture image until the locking time has passed when the remaining playing time is larger than the reference time, and starts the timing of said locking  
30 time timing means and disables the output operation of the picture image until the locking time has passed after

the remaining playing time has passed when the remaining playing time is smaller than the reference time.

16. The picture image outputting apparatus  
5 according to claim 13, wherein said picture image reproducer is a digital versatile disk apparatus for reproducing an optical disk to output a reproduced picture image and/or a reproduced sound to a monitor device.

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17. The picture image outputting apparatus  
according to claim 13, wherein said picture image reproducer is a game machine for executing a game in a state of being connected with a monitor device.

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18. The picture image outputting apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is an  
apparatus for demodulating picture image information  
delivered through a network to output the demodulated  
20 picture image information.